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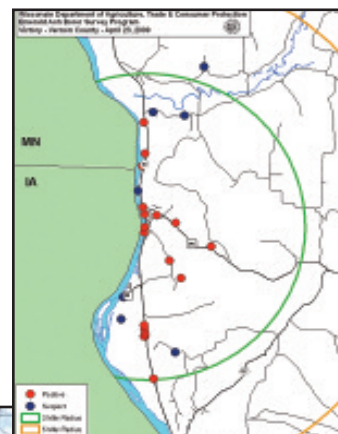
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2nd EAB Infestation Found; Survey Planned

Mick Skwarok, WI DATCP

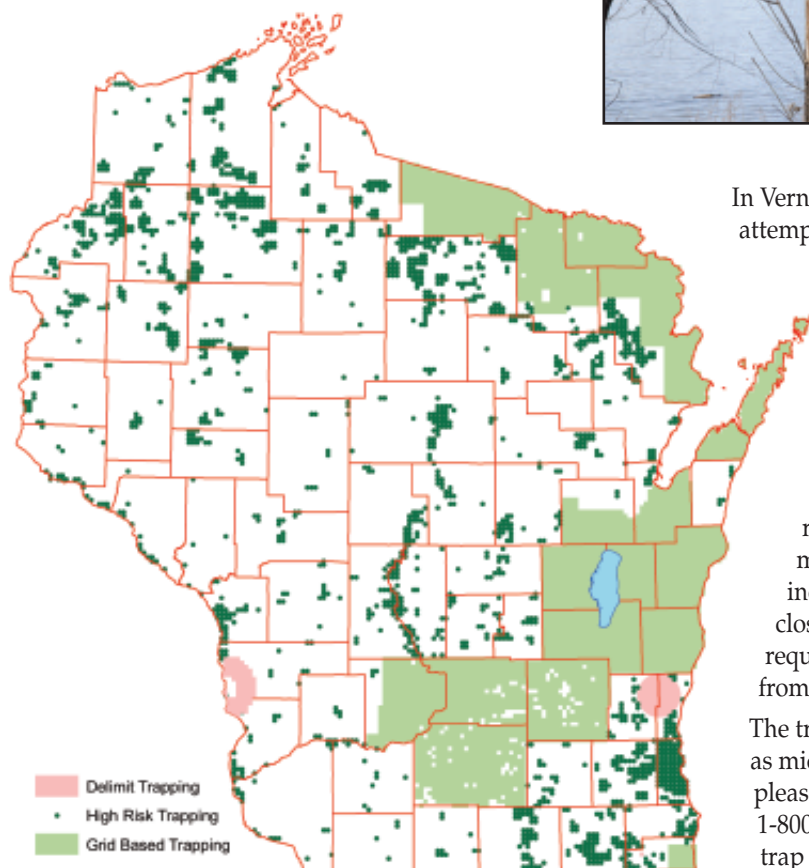
Wisconsin is now battling the emerald ash borer (EAB) on two fronts: in the southeast near Newburg, and in the southwest along the Mississippi River in Vernon County. The infestation in Ozaukee and Washington counties was discovered last summer. The discovery of EAB in Vernon County was made earlier this spring after an alert homeowner contacted local foresters. In both cases, the infestations appear to be several years old and spread across a significant area.

A winter survey near Newburg performed by staff with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection determined that infestation to cover at least 7.5 square miles, with more than 50,000 ash trees at risk. Trapping around that area this summer may reveal that the infestation is actually larger than what was first learned.



(clockwise, from left to right) Hanging an EAB survey trap in Fond du Lac County; Relative locations of infested trees near Victory, Wis.; Dying ash trees along the Mississippi River near Victory.

Photos and map by WI DATCP staff



In Vernon County, the summer survey will be the state's first attempt to define the infestation in the Victory area. Within a couple weeks of the confirmation, trees infested with EAB had been located about three miles to the south of Victory, two miles to the north, and just over a mile to the east.

Summer trapping for EAB relies again on purple, sticky traps. We call them traps because they ensnare the adult beetle in the sticky goo that covers the outside of the device, but they are not meant to help reduce beetle populations in a given area. They are merely survey tools that, if a beetle is caught, might indicate an infestation exists in the surrounding area. A closer inspection of ash trees in the immediate area is then required to help determine whether the beetle emerged from nearby infested trees.

The traps will be hanging in trees across the state until as late as mid-September. If you happen to see a trap on the ground, please don't hesitate to call the Wisconsin EAB Hotline at 1-800-462-2803. We'll have a survey specialist retrieve the trap and put it back up into the tree.

EAB & Insecticides - Factors to Consider for Professional Applicators

Dr. R. Chris Williamson, University of Wisconsin - Extension

Insecticides are valuable tools that have shown potential for protecting trees from EAB, including soil-applied systemic insecticides, trunk-injected systemic insecticides, systemic basal trunk sprays and protective cover sprays applied to the trunk, branches and, depending on the label, foliage. It is important to understand that success is not assured, and that trees will have to be treated each year. In many cases, it may be more cost-effective to remove and replace the tree.

Insecticide applications have effectively protected ash trees from EAB. However, in some university research trials, trees have continued to decline from EAB attack despite being treated over consecutive years. In other studies, EAB treatments have failed completely. The bottom line is that research on chemical control of EAB remains in the early stages, and we still do not have enough experience to know under what circumstances insecticides treatments will be effective over the long term.



Chemical injection of ash in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Photo by WDNR staff

Current information regarding insecticides labeled for use in Wisconsin can be found on Wisconsin's EAB website at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov.

The content of this article is directly derived from the multistate factsheet "Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer," developed and authored by Drs. Daniel A. Herms, Deborah G. McCullough, David R. Smitley, Clifford S. Sadof, R. Chris Williamson and Philip L. Nixon.

Key points to consider when using insecticides for EAB:

- Insecticides can effectively protect ash trees from EAB. Insecticides are not effective in eradicating EAB infestations.
- If EAB is not present within 15 miles of your property, treating your trees may be unnecessary. However, you should be aware of the status of EAB in the state and within your county. Current maps of known EAB populations can be found at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov.
- Trees that are already infested and showing signs of canopy decline when treatments are initiated may continue to decline in the first year after treatment, and then begin to show improvement in the second year due to time lag associated with vascular healing. Trees exhibiting more than 40 percent canopy decline are unlikely to recover even if treated.
- Emamectin benzoate is the only product tested to date that controls EAB for more than one year with a single application. It also provided a higher level of control than other products in side-by-side field studies.
- Research and experience suggest that EAB control with insecticides becomes less consistent on larger trees. Research has not been conducted on trees larger than 25-inch DBH. When treating very large trees under high pest pressure, it may be necessary to consider combining two treatment strategies.
- Imidacloprid soil drenches and soil injections are most effective when made at the base of the trunk. Spring or fall applications have been shown to be equally effective.
- Imidacloprid soil injections should be no more than 2 - 4 inches deep, to avoid placing the insecticide beneath feeder roots.
- When treating trees greater than 15-inch DBH with imidacloprid soil treatments, best results will be obtained with two applications each year. However, imidacloprid formulations for homeowners can be applied only once per year. Treatment programs must comply with label restrictions on the amount of imidacloprid that can be applied per acre in a given year.
- To facilitate uptake, systemic trunk and soil insecticides should be applied when the soil is moist but not saturated or excessively dry.
- When using imidacloprid or dinotefuran for EAB control, use the highest labeled rate. Insects that feed under the bark are difficult to control. Saving money by treating at the lowest rate may yield poor results.

EAB Regulations to Limit Spread of Pest

Anna Healy, WI DATCP

As the emerald ash borer quarantine grows to include Vernon and Crawford Counties, more and more businesses and citizens are affected by EAB regulations. The quarantine, which also includes Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties, prohibits the movement of any part of an ash tree, any life stage of an emerald ash borer, and all hardwood (non-coniferous) firewood out of quarantined counties. The goal of the quarantine is to prevent the further spread of EAB.



Portable mill at Fireman's Park in Newburg, Wis.

Photo by Kim Sebastian, WI DNR

However, ash material can legally move out of quarantine under compliance agreements from either the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (intrastate movement), or the USDA (interstate movement). Under these agreements, the party moving ash material agrees to process it and any waste material in a way that renders it free of EAB.

The use of quarantined ash under a compliance agreement to make materials such as lumber, mulch or wood chips may be one of the best management tools currently available to combat the beetle. Not only is beetle habitat reduced, infested wood is prevented from entering the firewood stream and giving EAB a free ride to new areas.



Moving ash material or hardwood firewood out of quarantined county without a compliance agreement is a criminal penalty that may result in a \$200 fine, six months in jail, or both. More severe than the penalty is the risk of a potential introduction of EAB to a new location.

Perhaps the most serious threat of spreading the emerald ash borer is the casual movement of firewood by citizens to and from recreational property and campgrounds, as well as for home heating. By buying firewood in the same county it will be burned, people will never risk being in violation of a quarantine, and can help reduce the spread of EAB.

If you are interested in obtaining a compliance agreement to use ash material in a quarantined area, please contact Bob Dahl at DATCP at 608-224-4573.

Wisconsin's New EAB Website



Wisconsin's Internet resource for information on emerald ash borer is better than ever. What used to be a collection of links to other resources is now a full-blown website with EAB information specific to Wisconsin.

Coming soon to the site is an interactive "report EAB" feature to help you determine if that green beetle you've spied in your backyard is EAB or something else.

Make sure to visit the site often for additional and timely updates.

Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Madison & Extension, US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture APHIS PPQ